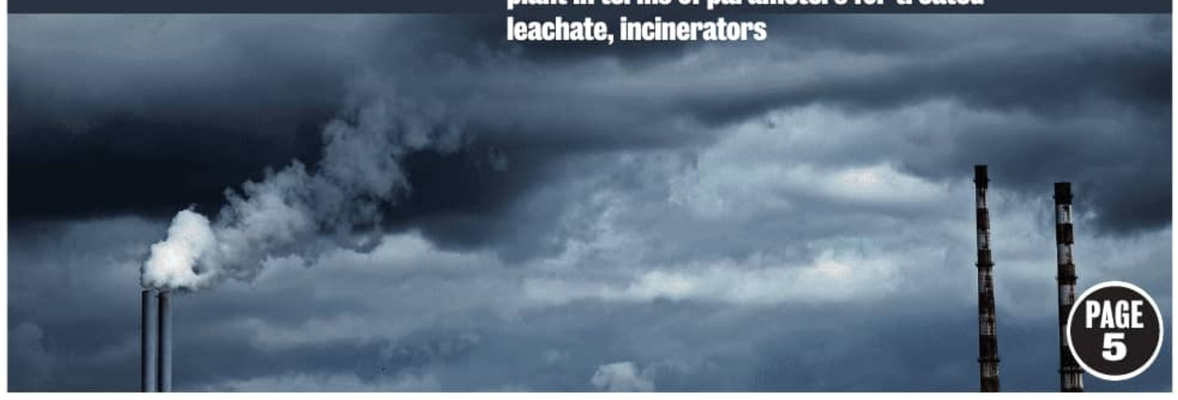
BENGALURU, SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 30 | Min 22 | Humidity 66% Scattered thunderstorms Sensex 75,415 | Nifty 23,719 | Gold 1,58,723 | Silver 2,74,886 | Dollar 95.63 | Euro 111.02 | GBP 128.47

WASTE WATCH

State pollution control board must keep eye on compliance of standards of every waste-to-energy plant in terms of parameters for treated leachate, incinerators



PAGE 5

TROUBLED WATERS

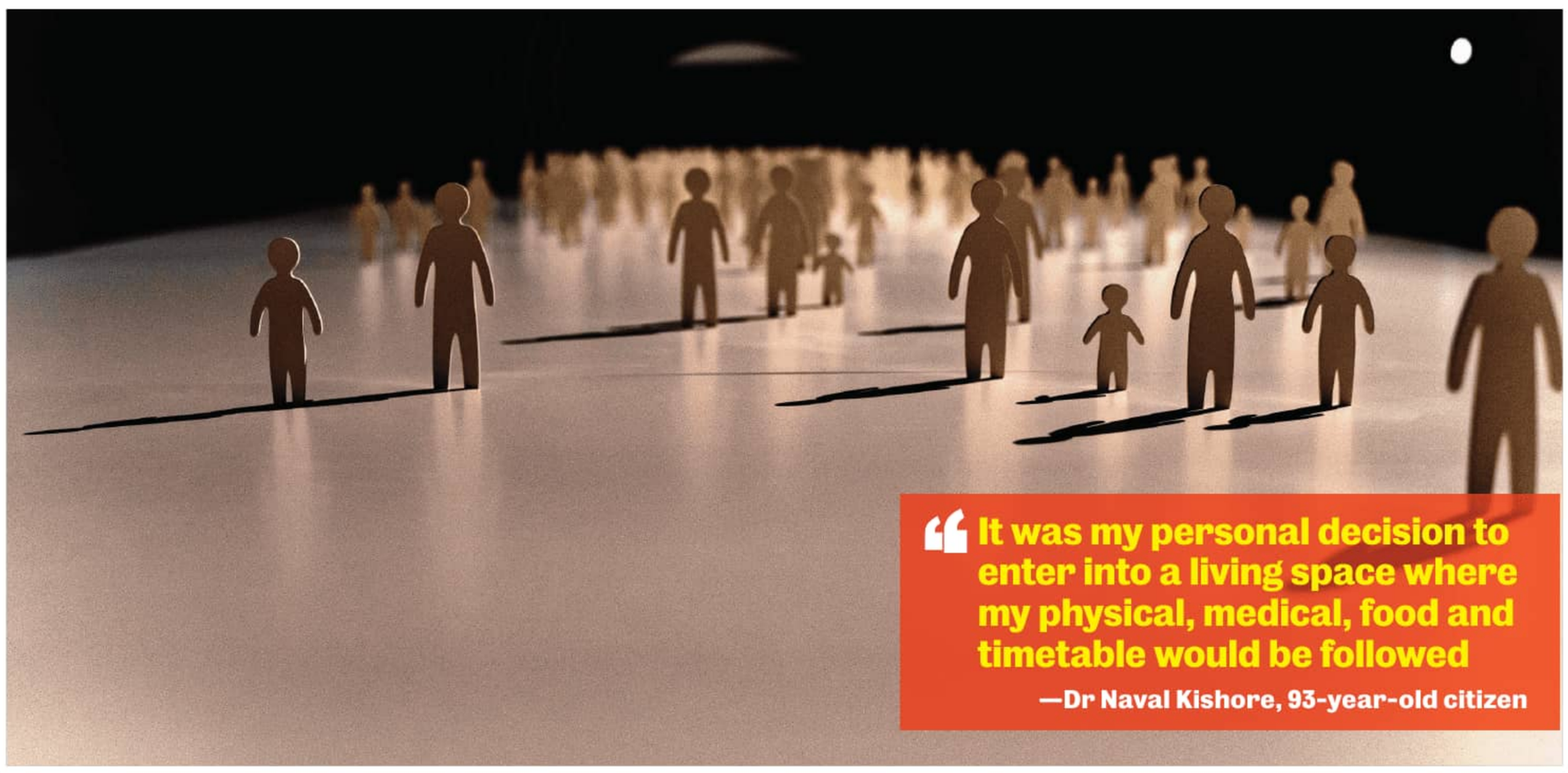
Lead, copper, mercury, and other heavy metals in our rivers threatening food chains and health

PAGE 6

BM speaks to Bengalureans to understand how families hold on to their values in these fast-paced, ever-shifting times — some hold on to traditions, some evolve as the situations demand; equations with elders are most dynamic

WE ARE FAMILY

Concept of boundaries enter our lexicons, slowly but gradually



> It was my personal decision to enter into a living space where my physical, medical, food and timetable would be followed
>
> —Dr Naval Kishore, 93-year-old citizen

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru's family structures have been evolving with the times, but with the elderly constituting approximately 12.4% of the city's population, which is higher than the national average, the traditions survive.

With the shift in trend from joint families to nuclear families, the society is also working hard to retain its culture, bonding and emotional health.

In Bengaluru homes, elders are the moral support, custodians of tradition, rooted in centuries old wisdom and culture. Sukadarshini, aged 57, tells BM, "Families today are seeing a major change in wisdom reversal." She said due to urbanisation and mobility, society is being reshaped sometimes, giving a warning sign that the traditional structures are getting diluted.

She adds that the sunny side of a typical Kannadiga house is that the elder is to this day the head of the hierarchy where their opinions and resolutions are upheld despite the family having economic independence and futuristic aspirations of the current younger generation.

A typical household also gives great attention to the health and well being of the elderly as it is considered as a way to show adulation towards aging parents.

For Rosie, a kindergarten teacher, the interaction between generations is a joy to watch.

"It is a pleasure to see toddlers and young children being brought to school by their grandparents and also to see the children racing towards them after school hours."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

That's not on the menu

Bengalureans discuss need to bring back menu books in restaurants, as QR-code dining systems turn too cumbersome

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A social media post questioning the collection of customers' phone numbers and OTP verification at a Bengaluru pub has reignited concerns around consumer privacy, QR-code dining systems and the increasing digitisation of restaurant experiences.

In a post on X, user Kripal Amanna, founder of Food Lovers TV, questioned why patrons at Bob's Bar Bengaluru were allegedly required to enter their mobile numbers and validate them through a one-time password before placing an order. "A beer and a bite shouldn't require surrendering personal data," the post said.

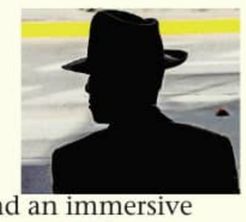
The user also referred to an advisory issued by the Department of Consumer Affairs, which had directed businesses not to insist on customers sharing mobile numbers as a mandatory condition for billing or sale of products and services.

The post triggered widespread debate online, with many users sharing similar experiences at restaurants, retail outlets and pharmacies where mobile numbers were

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Suspense served



Bangalore Literature Festival presents Dead Write, the city's first genre festival devoted entirely to crime writing, featuring two days of sessions with over twenty acclaimed authors, thrilling plot twists and an immersive murder mystery dinner experience. **Where: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur; When: May 23, 24, 10.30 am onwards**

02 Journal journey

Atta Galatta is hosting an Art Journalling Workshop, a guided, beginner-friendly session where participants can draw, collage, layer and create a journal page that's entirely theirs. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: May 23, 1 pm**

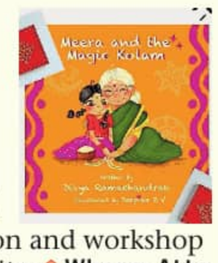
03 Immersive experience

Candlelight® by Live Your City returns to Bengaluru this season, offering audiences intimate evenings where thousands of glowing candles transform venues into immersive settings for unforgettable live music experiences. **Where: Samarthanam Auditorium-Managed by Theatrenama; When: May 30, 6.30 pm, 8.30 pm**

04 Match mania

Loco Lane transforms match day into a premium fan sanctuary, offering all inclusive IPL screenings with gourmet dining and the comfort of premium box seating for an elevated experience. **Where: Loco Lane, Ashok Nagar; When: Until May 31, 5 pm**

05 Magic of art



Author Divya Ramachandran brings the launch of 'Meera and the Magic Kolam', a story that celebrates imagination, tradition and self-expression, along with a two hour interactive kolam session and workshop highlighting heritage and creativity. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: May 24, 2.30 pm**

Owners left high and dry after rental promises fall flat

Property owners and tenants report facing issues with asset management company over alleged delays in rental income and poor dealing, highlighting transparency concerns

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Flat owners leasing out property and tenants seeking homes are advised to exercise caution to avoid risk of fraud

Several property owners who entered into agreements with an asset management company have alleged delays in receiving rental income. Some owners say they have not been paid for periods ranging from five to eight months. Reports suggest the number of such cases has been rising, with concerns linked to disputes over agreements.

"I have entered an agreement with Jones Asset Management to rent out my 3 BHK flat last year. There was no problem for a few months but later they began paying the rent late by one or two months," said L Kumar, property owner.

Expressing concern over not receiving rent for more than five months, Sriram P, another property owner, said the asset management company had sub-leased the flat for over Rs 25 lakh. "I have explained the problem to the tenant and he agreed to vacate the flat after collecting the lease amount paid to the asset management company," he said.

Suresh S, another property owner who entered into an agreement with the asset management company for two years, said, "I entered into an agreement for a period of two years. I received the rent of Rs 55,000 per month for 11 months without any issues. Now, the asset management company has to pay the rent for eight months. I am mulling lodging a complaint with Indiranagar police."

Bangalore Mirror published a story 'Tenant poses as owner to lease out flat' on April 20, 2024, narrating how the accused allegedly targeted senior citizens by renting their properties. BM also published a story 'Rent scam: Victims at lurch, stage protest against inaction' on June 25, 2024, highlighting how police reportedly declined to take action against a realtor accused of defrauding property owners, who say they have been struggling to recover their hard earned money and pursuing multiple avenues for redress.

Urging flat owners and tenants to be cautious, Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar, Convenor of Karnataka Home Buyers Forum, said that flat owners leasing out property and tenants seeking homes are advised to exercise caution. "We always advise them to have direct contact with tenants or owners instead of any middlemen to avoid getting cheated," he said. However, Jones Asset Management was not available for comment.

Custody order deemed invalid without bail cancellation

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that anticipatory bail remains in force even after the filing of a charge sheet and an accused who has already been granted such relief cannot ordinarily be remanded to judicial custody unless the bail is cancelled through due legal procedure. Justice Vijaykumar A Patil observed that the Special Court had adopted a course "contrary to the settled position of law" by directing that the accused be taken into custody despite the anticipatory bail continuing to operate. The court noted that neither the State nor the victim had filed any plea seeking cancellation of bail.

The High Court was hearing a writ petition challenging an order of the Additional District and Sessions Judge, FTSC-I, Uttara Kannada, Karwar, which had remanded the petitioner to judicial custody even though he had earlier secured anticipatory bail in the same case. The petitioner had been booked for offences under Section 12 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 and Section 78(2) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023. He was granted anticipatory bail on February 26, 2026. At the hearing, the victim's mother alleged that the accused continued to follow her daughter, disrupting her college attendance. The Special Court later directed that the accused be taken into custody. Challenging the order before the High Court, the petitioner argued that his anticipatory bail remained valid and had never been cancelled. The bench ruled the Special Court erred in ordering custody without cancelling anticipatory bail and set aside the custody order. **— BMB**

Engineering courses to have separate counselling

With the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) process facing uncertainty, the state government has decided to conduct separate counselling for engineering and other professional courses for the 2026-27 academic year to avoid delays in seat allotment. The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Higher Education Minister MC Sudhakar and Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil along with officials of the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) and representatives of educational institutions.

At present, KEA conducts CET-based counselling for engineering, veterinary and agriculture courses, while medical admissions are linked to NEET rankings. Since many students appear for both CET and NEET, KEA had been prioritising medical counselling first, allowing top-ranked students to secure medical seats before engineering allotments began. The government said the separate counselling system aims to streamline admissions and prevent disruption in seat allocation. **— BMB**

VTU announces results within 10 minutes of exam completion

Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) announced the final semester engineering exam results 10 minutes after the exam ended. The results were released by Vice-Chancellor Prof S Vidyashankar and Registrar (Evaluation) Prof UJ Ujwal. A total of 56,192 students appeared for the BE and BTech final semester exams. The exam ended at 5.30 pm on Friday and the results were announced at 5.40 pm. The university recorded a 99.98 per cent result rate and completed the evaluation process 8 days earlier than in previous years. Earlier, results were announced within one hour after the exam. This time, results were sent directly to students' mobile numbers.

Prof S Vidyashankar said VTU adopted technology to announce the results quickly and thanked the staff and affiliated colleges for their support. He added that final-year students require results for jobs and higher education, so the university ensured an early announcement. In May 2025, VTU announced results within one hour for 50,321 students. Prof UJ Ujwal said the university used digital evaluation of answer scripts and completed preparations in advance to announce the results quickly. **— BMB**

BMRCL plans digital advertising on metro pillars across city

After an eight-year gap, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has initiated plans to install advertisements on metro pillars and portals across Bengaluru, aiming to generate more than Rs 100 crore in annual non-ticketing revenue.

The move comes after restrictions on pillar advertising were lifted, prompting BMRCL to float tenders for advertisement rights along 15 metro corridors, including the Purple, Green, Yellow, Pink and upcoming Blue Lines.

Officials said around 5,400 advertising points covering nearly 4,000 sq ft of space have been identified, with digital displays expected to soon become visible across major metro stretches.

BMRCL said the decision was driven by rising operational costs, increasing loan repayment obligations and financial losses despite healthy ridership. While the corporation recorded a profit of Rs 307.67 crore in 2023-24, it reportedly incurred a loss of Rs 167.41 crore in 2024-25 mainly due to Rs 652 crore in interest payments and rising operational expenses, which increased from Rs 263 crore in 2018 to Rs 614.51 crore in 2025.

Officials noted that metro pillar advertisements had earlier generated Rs 8-9 crore annually before BBMP imposed restrictions in 2018. **— BMB**

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Teenager uses tech to pin down city crater menace

Inspired by daily struggles, young innovator builds platform that will allow citizens to report damaged footpaths, which will be sent to civic authorities

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A 14-year-old student, Surya Utkarsha, has developed a civic-tech platform called Rasthe.in to improve Bengaluru's pedestrian infrastructure by enabling citizens to report damaged footpaths quickly and easily.

Speaking about the motivation behind the initiative, Utkarsha said poor pedestrian infrastructure inspired the idea. "I personally struggle with poor footpaths while walking across the city. When I spoke to my friends, they shared similar experiences and encouraged me to take action. That support pushed me to work on this idea and create a solution," he said.

He added that the platform was built and launched within a short span. "Just three days ago I started building this website, and it was officially launched yesterday," he explained. Rasthe.in lets users report broken or unsafe footpaths in one click. Options include autos, vendor stalls, broken tiles, cars on footpaths, tree roots, construction, and garbage dumps. Once submitted, reports are sent directly to civic authorities such as the GBA, helping streamline grievance redressal, and reducing delays in resolving pedestrian infrastructure issues. The platform also features a crowd-ranking system where users can swipe through footpaths in a Tinder-like interface and upvote or downvote them, helping identify the best and worst pedestrian stretches across Bengaluru.

Poor footpaths inspire young innovator to create digital solution

According to Utkarsha, the platform has already received encouraging public engagement. "Since launch, we have already received 21 complaints. After sharing it on social media, many people related to the city's poor footpath conditions and appreciated the initiative, which encouraged us to keep pushing for safer and more accessible pedestrian spaces," he said. He noted that the project is still in its early stages but holds strong potential for civic collaboration. "We are expecting more people to come forward to highlight the issues," he added.

Rasthe.in is developed under The Marg Initiative, a broader road safety and civic awareness effort started by Utkarsha, which has impacted over 50,000 people through awareness campaigns, clean-up drives, and advocacy work.

> **"Since launch, we have already received 21 complaints. After sharing it on social media, many people related to the city's poor footpath conditions and appreciated the initiative, which encouraged us to keep pushing for safer and more accessible pedestrian spaces**
> – Surya Utkarsha

Looking ahead, Utkarsha said the team plans to engage with government stakeholders once sufficient data is collected. "We plan to reach out to Bengaluru Traffic Police and GBA soon. We have not approached them yet, but once we receive stronger public responses and collect solid data through the platform, we will connect with them," he added.

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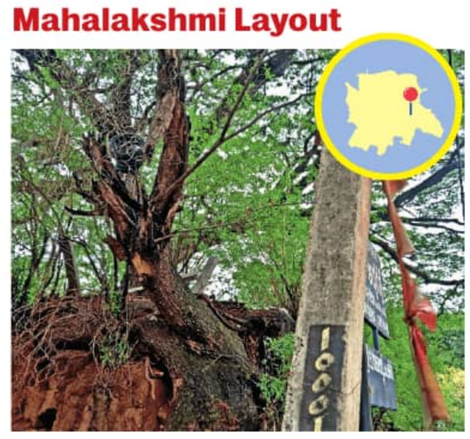
Hurdle alert
Horamavu

Stone encroachment on Horamavu 1st Cross Water Tank Road after GBA roadwork has narrowed public access, prompting residents to seek immediate restoration and action from authorities

Access blocked
Mahalakshmi Layout


Heavy rains over the last two days have caused fallen trees and landslide-like conditions near a bank in Mahalakshmi Layout Further Extension, blocking movement and posing a serious risk to residents.

App-based ordering systems stepping on privacy landmine

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

allegedly sought before billing or placing orders. Adding to the criticism, Bengaluru-based food blogger Jehad Mohamed said QR-code based menus and ordering systems, which became common during the Covid-19 pandemic, have now become more of a hindrance than a convenience.

"Covid made them make sense. No touching, no reprinting, no cost. Sure. But that was 2020 and this is now," he said. Mohamed argued that digital-only menus often create practical difficulties for diners, especially in Bengaluru where network connectivity can be unreliable in basement cafés, pubs and smaller venues. "You're now asking someone to fix their phone before they can read your menu. That's not hospitality. That's an obstacle," he said.

He also criticised poorly designed digital menus, saying many restaurants either redirect customers to generic aggregator pages or force them to navigate oversized PDF menus that are difficult to load and read on mobile phones. "A menu says something about who you are," Mohamed said, adding that traditional printed menus often reflected a restaurant's identity and personality in ways QR-code systems could not. Recalling a recent dining experience, he said he encountered a worn-out QR code at an upscale venue that could not be scanned, leaving customers confused. "That's not a vibe. That's a tech support situation with expensive drinks," he remarked.

Food enthusiast Saina Jaypal said she still preferred physical menus, arguing that restaurants lose a part of their character when everything shifts online. "I am old school. I like hard copy menus. There is enough screen time and I feel menus have their own distinctive styles," she said. According to Jaypal, many establishments adopt digital menus largely for operational convenience. "The restaurants, breweries and bars who use online menus do it only for efficiency. Nothing else," she said.

She pointed out that app-based ordering systems reduce the need for interaction among the staff, making logistics flow smoothly in a restaurant set up and leaving little room for error. She said that she would rather have a system where customers are able to choose if they want to disclose their personal details.

Jaypal recalled how some Bengaluru eateries once became known for their creatively designed menus. "The old Monkey Bar on Castle Street had such an iconic menu that I knew people who took it with them as souvenirs," she said.

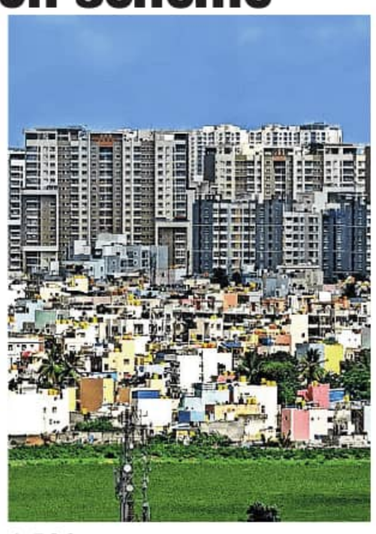
Mohamed acknowledged that QR-based systems may still work for high-volume establishments where waitstaff are difficult to access, but argued that for smaller restaurants and cafés, the technology often disrupts rather than improves the dining experience. "Bangalore's food culture was never about efficiency. It was about connection. About someone knowing what you want before you ask," he said.

Consumer rights discussions around mandatory phone number collection and app-based ordering systems have intensified in recent years amid concerns over spam calls, promotional messaging and misuse of personal data. The Department of Consumer Affairs had earlier clarified that forcing customers to provide mobile numbers for billing could amount to an unfair trade practice under the Consumer Protection Act.

Civic revenue drops under khata conversion scheme

A sharp reduction in fees for converting B-khata properties into A-khata is set to impact Bengaluru's civic finances, with five city corporations expected to lose nearly Rs 1,015 crore in projected revenue this year.

Under the "Nanna Khata Nanna Hakku" campaign launched by the Greater Bengaluru Authority on May 15, property owners have 100 days to regularise B-khata properties by paying 2% of the guidance value, reduced from the earlier 5%. Officials said the move will help citizens save lakhs of rupees but will significantly reduce revenues already factored into civic budgets for 2026-27. Around seven lakh B-khata properties across Bengaluru are eligible for conversion, and civic agencies had expected major income from the scheme. So far, over 12,000 applications have been filed, with around 6,000 approved and nearly 1,500 property owners completing payments to secure A-khata status. Civic officials warned the revenue shortfall could deepen financial strain on corporations already struggling to pay salaries and fund waste management and infrastructure works. For a standard 30x40 site under GBA limits, residents may still pay nearly Rs 1 lakh, including conversion fees, cess and development charges. — BMB



CRIME FILES

Four held after knife threat

An Uber driver was threatened with a knife on May 22 at around 5 am. Four persons boarded the Uber from the airport and, upon arriving at Srinivasa Nagar near Reva College, began threatening the driver and demanding money from him.

When the driver informed them that he did not have the money and that his friend did, the four accused called his friend to the location with the money. After the friend arrived, the accused allegedly attempted to abduct him forcibly, but he managed to escape and informed the police through the emergency helpline.

Shortly afterwards, Hoysala 164 reached the location within 16 minutes, nabbed one accused, and safely rescued the victim from being abducted. **–BMB**

Town Hall gathering that never was

Bengaluru police on Friday issued a public advisory warning citizens against participating in or circulating social media messages related to a proposed gathering near Town Hall on May 24 under the banner "COCKROACH JANATA PARTY KARNATAKA".

According to police, messages circulating online invited people to assemble in large numbers near Town Hall to form a "peaceful human chain". However, officials clarified that no individual, organisation, or political party had sought permission for the programme and no official approval had been granted.

Police further stated that no permission had been obtained from the GBA office for the use of the venue. Officials pointed out that, as per a Karnataka High Court order dated August 1, 2022, protests, dharnas, and rallies are not permitted at locations other than Freedom Park.

Citizens were advised not to share the messages on social media platforms and to avoid assembling near Town Hall. Police said the advisory was issued to maintain public order. **–BMB**

Lokayukta flags wall collapse lapses

A Karnataka Lokayukta investigation into the April 29 compound wall collapse at Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital in Shivajinagar has revealed several alleged lapses by civic and hospital authorities that may have contributed to the tragedy that killed seven people and injured seven others.

The wall collapsed following heavy rain, killing women and children near the structure. The Lokayukta took suo motu cognisance of the incident and ordered a detailed probe.

According to the investigation report, the wall had been rebuilt after a lorry accident in 2008–09 and was reconstructed using cement concrete blocks. The report stated that unscientific soil filling up to nearly 1.8 metres was carried out without designing the wall as a retaining structure.

The report also cited the absence of proper drainage and weep holes, causing rainwater pressure to build up behind the wall. Officials further highlighted a lack of periodic inspections and encroachment clearance around the site. **–BMB**

₹420 crore GST fraud busted

A massive fake Input Tax Credit (ITC) fraud worth nearly ₹420 crore has come under the scanner of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), following a Commercial Tax Department probe into suspicious transactions amounting to ₹2,384 crore.

The fraud was allegedly carried out through Bengaluru-based firms Messrs SKS Traders and KH Waste Recycle Company, which reportedly operated through more than 70 bogus companies across Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu. Officials said over 30 companies linked to the network had already been suspended, while efforts were under way to identify the owners of the remaining firms and issue notices.

Investigators alleged that SKS Traders fraudulently claimed fake ITC worth ₹382 crore through transactions amounting to ₹2,172 crore, while KH Waste Recycle Company allegedly availed fake ITC of ₹38 crore through transactions worth ₹212 crore. The accused, identified as Salim Ullabeg (49) and Hasain Beg (35), have been arrested. Officials are also probing suspected links involving businessmen, politicians, and Commercial Tax officials. **–BMB**

Dirty dump flames under scanner

Tighter pollution checks, green buffers and odour controls proposed as watchdog drafts tougher norms for India's waste-burning facilities

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As concerns over the environmental impact of waste-to-energy (WtE) plants grow louder, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has issued draft guidelines on the operation and management of incineration-based WtE plants.

The guidelines have been shared with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), along with other state pollution control boards, for comments and suggestions.

Drafted following directions from the National Green Tribunal earlier this year, the rules will guide waste pre-processing practices, technology configuration, emissions control, ash handling and leachate management measures, while ensuring that WtE plants comply with the provisions of the SWM Rules, 2026.

The draft guidelines have been sent to the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), along with other state pollution control boards across India, for feedback and comments.

Draft rules tighten emission checks at waste-burning plants across India

As per the guidelines, the state pollution control boards will monitor compliance with standards at every waste-to-energy plant. There are 19 parameters for treated leachate standards and 11 parameters for emission standards from incinerators or thermal treatment technologies.

The rules, once finalised, will apply to all existing, under-construction and proposed municipal solid waste incineration-based WtE plants, irrespective of technology or capacity. Regulatory authorities, including state pollution control boards and urban development departments, will be responsible for enforcement, monitoring and compliance checks.

"The guidelines have become necessary to ensure that WtE incineration projects implement proper operation and maintenance practices, as well as pollution control measures, to ensure they are environmentally safe," the CPCB noted.

The draft guidelines state that any waste-to-energy plant processing more than five tonnes of waste per day will need to establish a buffer zone. Moreover, a green belt with a minimum width of 10 metres should be developed within and around the facility boundary. Vegetation, shrubs and trees should be incorporated into the green belt.

To effectively control and minimise odour emissions in waste storage and handling areas, a negative air pressure system must be maintained in storage areas. Herbal-based disinfectants should be periodically sprayed within waste storage and handling areas. These disinfectants must be non-toxic, eco-friendly and chemically stable, ensuring they do not interfere with or alter any ongoing chemical or biological processes during storage or incineration.

Moreover, local bodies must ensure that solid waste is disposed of in an environmentally sound manner at the respective waste-to-energy plants. Operators of WtE facilities must meet the treatment standards specified in Schedules II and III of the SWM Rules, 2026, to prevent harm to human health and the environment.

New CPCB proposals mandate stricter emission monitoring, leachate standards and eco safeguards for incineration units handling municipal garbage across states in the state

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Heavy metal surge threatens Karnataka's rivers and public health

CWC report reveals alarming rise in toxic metals across river basins, posing risks to children, crops, and communities statewide

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Experts warn increasing heavy metal pollution from industries, sewage discharge, mining, and road runoff is severely affecting river health

Lead, copper, mercury, and other heavy metals are contaminating Karnataka's rivers, endangering food chains and human health. Experts warn unchecked industrial and agricultural practices are driving this escalating pollution crisis

High levels of heavy metals such as lead, copper, iron, chromium, and mercury are present in Karnataka's rivers, including Arkavathi, the Central Water Commission (CWC) has noted in its recent report.

The CWC analysed water quality at 46 locations across Karnataka and found high concentrations of one or more trace and toxic heavy metals above permissible limits in several river stretches. The report highlighted a worrying rise in lead content in the Arkavathi River near Bengaluru, particularly at T Bekuppe in Kanakapura taluk, where lead concentration exceeded 46 µg/L — nearly five times the acceptable limit prescribed for drinking water.

According to the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the maximum acceptable limit of lead in drinking water is 10 µg/L. Data from the previous year showed that lead levels in Arkavathi stood at 34.689 µg/L, indicating a steady increase in contamination levels.

Experts said lead exposure through drinking water has become a significant contributor to overall human exposure. They warned that lead poisoning remains one of the most serious environmental health concerns, particularly among young children. Children are more vulnerable than adults because of their rapid growth and higher metabolic rate. Studies show that children absorb a greater proportion of ingested lead through the gastrointestinal tract compared to adults, making them more susceptible to long-term health complications.

The CWC monitored nine trace and toxic metals — arsenic, cadmium, copper, chromium, iron, lead, mercury, nickel, and zinc — in river water samples collected between January and December 2025 from river basins across Karnataka and other parts of the country.

Apart from lead contamination, the report also recorded elevated copper levels in the Arkavathi river stretch near Ramanagara. While BIS norms prescribe that copper concentration in drinking water should not exceed 50 µg/L, the river recorded copper levels as high as 83 µg/L.

The report further noted higher concentrations of iron, mercury, nickel, and chromium in several other river systems across Karnataka. Elevated iron levels were detected in the Cauvery and Hemavathy rivers, while mercury contamination exceeded permissible limits in the Krishna and Hagari rivers in Raichur and Ballari districts respectively. Higher nickel concentrations were also found in the Bhadra, Malaprabha, and Cauvery rivers.

According to the CWC, heavy metal pollution in river water and sediments has increased considerably over the past few decades, largely due to human activities such as mining, smelting, foundries, metal-based industries, agricultural runoff, landfill leaching, waste dumping, automobile emissions, and roadwork. The report warned that these toxic metals pose a serious threat to human health and the environment because of their toxicity, non-biodegradable nature, and tendency to bioaccumulate in crops, soil, and water systems.

Environmental experts have also raised concerns over the long-term ecological impact of contaminated river water entering irrigation networks and groundwater sources. They stressed the need for stricter industrial monitoring, regular water quality assessments, and effective sewage treatment systems to prevent further deterioration of Karnataka's river ecosystems and safeguard public health.

Karnataka schools lead nation with strong teacher-student ratios

State maintains favourable pupil-teacher ratios across school levels, outperforming national averages and larger states through balanced recruitment and planning

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Karnataka continues to demonstrate a progressive approach to education, maintaining a favourable pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) across school levels compared to national averages and other large states. The latest UDISE + 2024-25 data shows that the state has a PTR of 18 at primary, 15 at upper primary, and 17 at secondary level. This is notably lower than the national PTR of 20 for primary and upper primary and 15 for secondary, suggesting that Karnataka's classrooms are better staffed relative to student numbers.

According to recent parliamentary data, states such as Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal continue to face pressure with upper primary PTRs of 29 and 31 respectively, while Karnataka has maintained manageable classroom sizes despite having a sizable student population. Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu reported upper primary PTRs of 20 and 17 respectively, placing Karnataka in a competitive position nationally. Smaller states such as Sikkim and Nagaland recorded extremely low PTRs of 4 and 5, though experts noted that these figures largely reflect lower student populations rather than a structural advantage in teaching resources.

With primary PTR at 18 and upper primary at 15, Karnataka ensures classrooms remain manageable. Experts stress continued teacher investment to sustain quality education as student numbers rise

Continued investment in teacher recruitment and distribution remains crucial for sustaining effective classroom learning across the state's growing school network

Ravi Krishna, an educationist, said, "Karnataka's PTR figures indicate stronger teacher availability in urban and semi-urban districts, particularly at upper primary levels, while secondary schools with a PTR of 17 signal some pressure as student numbers grow. Educationists suggest that continued investment in teacher recruitment and distribution will be key to sustaining quality education across the state."

Experts said the data highlights Karnataka's ability to balance expanding educational access with maintaining a reasonable teacher-student ratio, helping keep classroom learning effective and manageable across both government and aided schools in rapidly growing districts statewide.

Assault at gym spurs demand for stricter vigil

Taking cognisance of a serious concern over the recent shocking incident involving an accidental shoulder brush at a gym that escalated into a brutal assault, Karnataka State Police Complaints Authority member Mohan Kumar Danappa wrote a letter to the Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG&IGP), urging jurisdictional police inspectors to keep a vigil on gyms.

Mohan Kumar Danappa said he wanted police officers to monitor gyms to prevent such incidents from recurring elsewhere. "The incident took place at MJ Fitness Gym in Hassan. Keerthan, a gym-goer, accidentally brushed his shoulder against

another gym member, Varun. Following this, Varun punched Keerthan, resulting in the latter being admitted to the ICU," the letter reads.

Danappa said some gym trainers allegedly supply steroids and drugs to gym-goers. "It makes gym-goers behave rudely with their colleagues. There are incidents of such people misbehaving with women. I want such incidents not to recur in future," the letter reads.

He urged police inspectors to conduct regular gym inspections and monitor drug abuse. **–BMB**

India tightens Ebola surveillance network

Amid global concerns over Ebola outbreaks, the Union Health Ministry has directed all states and Union Territories to strengthen surveillance, hospital preparedness and rapid response systems to ensure early detection and containment of any potential cases in India.

In line with World Health Organisation guidelines, states have been asked to intensify monitoring under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) for unusual clusters of fever, vomiting, diarrhoea and other Ebola-like symptoms, particularly among travellers arriving from affected regions. The ministry also directed states to identify dedicated isolation facilities, referral ambulances and trained healthcare teams equipped with PPE, laboratory support and critical care infrastructure.

The advisory called for tighter coordination between airport and port health authorities, surveillance units and laboratories, while reinforcing infection prevention measures in hospitals and isolation centres. The Indian Council of Medical Research's National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, will serve as the primary testing centre for suspected Ebola samples, while states will keep Rapid Response Teams on alert and conduct awareness campaigns to prevent panic and misinformation. **–BMB**

Less is more: How minimalist fashion is taking over this summer

Embrace this season's minimal trend by opting for pared-back style pieces that embody quiet luxury and effortless dressing

At its best, summer is the ideal time to experiment with breezy and comfortable dresses, abandoning loud fashion trends for minimalist silhouettes and comfortable dressing. Minimalist fashion has long been more than just a trend today, it is a lifestyle decision based on comfort and it is excellent, but this time it is all about enjoying summer with minimalist fashion that speaks for itself, less is always more.

This season is not only about the appearance but also emphasises breathability and effortless dressing.

Current fashion trend in breathable fabrics

Linen remains a top choice due to its laid back fabric texture and breathable nature. No matter if it's an oversized white shirt, flowy pants or a coordinated outfit set, these fabrics are elegant but do not constrain you.

The fashion industry is gradually transitioning from stiff dressing to comfortable and effortless clothes.

Prints have given way to neutral colours

Summer minimalist clothing features a soothing range of neutrals such as white, beige, olive green, black, pale blue and brown tones. These colours ensure that your wardrobe is put together neatly and in style, without seeming forced.

Mono colour dressing is another emerging trend in fashion where it makes dressing simple and chic when using one hue in various materials.

Subtle side of luxe dressing

Minimalist fashion is highly connected with the idea of "quiet luxury," where fashion speaks through design, texture and fit rather than through the use of obvious brand logos and accessorisation.

Basic slip dresses, tailored trousers, tanks and flowing maxi skirts are becoming essential pieces, as they combine both comfort and elegance.

Accessorising in moderation

When dressing minimally during the summer season, accessorizing does not mean neglecting accessories entirely, rather, it implies using accessories in moderation. Rather than stacking numerous accessories together, the emphasis is on the use of subtle elements to enhance the attire. It could be a dainty gold necklace, thin sunglasses, a woven bag, or barely there sandals. Accessories have also become much more subtle, including fine gold jewelry, woven handbags, sunglasses and almost sandals.

The most significant change in summer style is that being stylish doesn't need to be excessive. The current minimalistic wardrobe is all about well thought out selections, basic clothing items and ease of confidence.

—Femina

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Airport belt turns realty magnet

Once seen mainly as the location of Bengaluru's international airport, Devanahalli is now rapidly transforming into one of the city's biggest real estate growth corridors. Backed by major infrastructure projects, industrial investments and improving connectivity, the region is witnessing rising demand from both homebuyers and investors.

Real estate developers say the area's growth is being driven by projects such as the Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR), upcoming suburban rail connectivity, aerospace parks, IT investment zones and the expansion of Kempegowda International Airport. Large residential townships, plotted developments and premium apartment projects are steadily changing the skyline of North Bengaluru.

"Devanahalli is no longer just an airport location. It has evolved into a long-term investment destination with strong infrastructure backing," said Ram Kumar, a real estate developer. Industry experts note that land prices in the region have appreciated significantly over the past few years as buyers look beyond traditional city centres.

Developers are also witnessing growing interest from NRIs and professionals working in the airport ecosystem, logistics, aerospace and technology sectors. "People are now looking at Devanahalli as a self-sustained urban zone rather than a peripheral suburb. The availability of larger land parcels and planned development gives it a major advantage," said a property developer involved in projects in the region. **–BMB**

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New flyovers lift realty prospects

Bengaluru's expanding infrastructure network is set to give a major boost to the city's real estate market, with Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE) planning 11 new flyovers across key traffic corridors at an estimated cost of ₹3,055 crore. The large-scale mobility upgrade aims to ease congestion in central and fast-growing residential zones while significantly improving connectivity between commercial hubs, IT corridors and emerging neighbourhoods. Once tenders are finalised, the projects are expected to be completed within 18 months. The proposed flyovers will come up along several high-demand stretches, including Minerva Circle-Hudson Circle, Old Madras Road-Electronic City corridor, Sirsi Circle-Nayandahalli, Shoolay Circle-St John's Hospital Road, Kogilu Circle, Konanakunte Cross and Mahalakshmi Layout Pipeline Road. Urban planners and property consultants believe improved road infrastructure in these locations will likely reduce travel time, improve last-mile connectivity and increase demand for both residential and commercial developments nearby. Areas connected to major flyovers often see property values appreciate due to smoother access to workplaces, Metro stations and arterial roads.

The infrastructure push also comes alongside renewed momentum for the long-delayed Ejipura Flyover project, which civic authorities now aim to complete by October. "Improved connectivity through these projects is expected to strengthen Bengaluru's long-term urban growth, make peripheral areas more attractive to homebuyers and support future real estate expansion across the city," said Shiva Kumar, a real estate developer. **–BMB**

India realty market beats Asia

India has emerged as the highest-yield real estate market across major asset classes in the Asia-Pacific region, according to CBRE's Q1 2026 Asia-Pacific Cap Rate Survey. The report stated that cap rates in India across office, retail, logistics, hotels and student housing remain higher than those in other APAC markets, offering greater return potential for global investors. During the January-March quarter of 2026, India recorded a 189 per cent year-on-year increase in real estate investment volumes to USD 2.29 billion, second only to Singapore in the region. CBRE said growing interest from domestic institutions, family offices and global investors has led to higher investments through direct acquisitions, REITs and debt instruments.

The survey noted that India continues to attract investor interest due to sustained tenant demand, rental growth and expansion in commercial real estate sectors. Grade A office cap rates in India ranged between 7.50 per cent and 8.40 per cent in core business districts, compared to lower levels in Singapore, Tokyo and Seoul. Student housing yields in India stood at 8.50 per cent-9 per cent, while institutional logistics assets recorded cap rates of 7.15 per cent-7.75 per cent, among the highest in the region. CBRE said the expansion of REITs, Global Capability Centres, infrastructure spending and domestic consumption is supporting demand across office, logistics, retail and hospitality sectors, although concerns over economic growth and lending conditions remain key risks for investors. **–BMB**

Kanakapura Road realty demand climbs

Kanakapura Road is rapidly emerging as one of Bengaluru's hottest real estate destinations, driven by improved infrastructure, Metro connectivity and expanding residential developments. Once considered a quieter suburban stretch, the corridor is now attracting strong interest from homebuyers, investors and developers alike.

The extension of the Namma Metro Green Line up to Silk Institute has significantly improved connectivity between Kanakapura Road and key parts of the city, reducing travel time for daily commuters. The area is also witnessing major road-widening projects, flyover proposals and civic upgrades, making it increasingly attractive for residential growth.

Developers are launching premium apartments, plotted layouts and gated communities targeting both end-users and investors. "Localities such as Konanakunte, Talaghattapura and Vajarahalli are witnessing steady appreciation in property values due to growing demand and better infrastructure. Moreover, the availability of comparatively larger land parcels, green surroundings and proximity to educational institutions, healthcare facilities and commercial zones has made Kanakapura Road a preferred destination for families seeking long-term investment and a better quality of life," said Kavita Krishnamurthy, a realtor.

–BMB

Realty sector needs massive capital

India's real estate sector is projected to require nearly 50 lakh crore in capital over the next decade to support its expansion into a USD 1 trillion market by 2030, according to the Anarock Capital report. The report said the sector is witnessing a shift from a fragmented financing structure to a more institutional and regulated capital market driven by banks, alternative investment funds, REITs, private credit and government-backed initiatives. Housing finance in the country has crossed 38 lakh crore and is projected to reach 77 lakh crore by 2029-30, while banks continue to account for the largest share of commercial real estate lending. The report also noted that nearly 80 per cent of commercial real estate lending remains concentrated in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, NCR and Bengaluru.

The report highlighted a funding gap in affordable housing despite rising institutional participation in the sector. More than 4.5 lakh stalled affordable and mid-income homes across over 1,500 projects require an estimated 55,000 crore in funding support, while the country is estimated to need 25 million affordable homes by 2030. Homes priced below 40 lakh accounted for only 10 per cent of new launches in the first quarter of 2026, compared to 26 per cent in 2021, while premium housing continued to dominate new supply. The report stated that India's REIT market remains at an early stage, with only 198 million sq ft of REIT-worthy office stock currently listed out of 520 million sq ft available. Data centres, logistics, industrial real estate and GCC-led office developments are expected to emerge as key investment segments over the next decade, supported by infrastructure spending, domestic demand and capital market reforms.

–BMB

Workplace costs climb in Bengaluru

Bengaluru has emerged as one of India's most expensive cities for office facilities management, alongside Mumbai and Gurugram, according to a report by Knight Frank India.

The report found that smaller office spaces in Bengaluru incur the highest operational costs due to limited scale efficiencies, higher workforce deployment and demand for integrated workplace management services.

For offices between 10,000 and 30,000 sq ft in Bengaluru, Mumbai and Gurugram, facilities management costs stood at ₹25.52 per sq ft for standard operations and increased to ₹27.52 per sq ft for round-the-clock operations. Costs were even higher for offices between 30,000 and 50,000 sq ft, touching ₹29.65 per sq ft for 24x7 operations.

The report stated that larger office campuses in Bengaluru benefit from economies of scale, centralised infrastructure, automation and integrated security systems, resulting in lower per sq ft operational costs. Large office spaces between 300,000 and 500,000 sq ft recorded costs of ₹13.65 per sq ft for regular operations and ₹15.65 per sq ft for 24x7 operations in Bengaluru, Mumbai and Gurugram.

According to Pawan Koyal, facilities management has become a strategic business function as companies increasingly focus on workplace experience, sustainability, employee wellbeing and operational continuity. The report added that smart building technologies and employee-centric office environments are expected to further drive demand for integrated facilities management solutions across Bengaluru's commercial office sector.

–BMB

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

OOTY'S FLORAL JEWEL

Our reader shares a vibrant image of a blooming Zinnia standing out against the lush greenery of an Ooty park. Known for their dazzling range of colours including pink, red, orange, yellow, purple and white, Zinnias add striking beauty to any landscape though they naturally lack blue shades. The vivid flower perfectly captures the freshness and charm of nature in full bloom.

The picture was clicked by reader
NJ Ravi Chander

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Kanaka corridor revival boosts massive suburban rail expansion

Fresh tenders, new bridges and phased works aim to restart stalled suburban rail connectivity across rapidly expanding eastern corridors

The long-delayed fourth corridor of the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project has finally received a fresh push, with authorities deciding to resume work on the 'Kanaka' corridor connecting Heelalige and Rajanukunte in four phases. The revival of the crucial suburban rail stretch comes months after infrastructure major Larsen & Toubro withdrew from the contract at the end of 2024, leaving the project partially stalled and raising concerns over further delays in Bengaluru's ambitious suburban rail network.

Following the contractor's exit, only station-related works at Rajanukunte, Heelalige and Ambedkar Nagar continued through separate tenders. Now, the Bengaluru Integrated Rail Infrastructure Development Enterprise (B-RIDE), the agency implementing the project, has floated three fresh tenders to restart the remaining civil works. Officials said the new packages include the construction of elevated and at-grade railway tracks, retaining walls, minor bridges and other supporting infrastructure. The agency is also reviewing the designs and structural stability of the work already completed by L&T before proceeding further. Under Package-1, work will begin between Benniganahalli and Jakkur. The scope includes fencing along a 6.259-km at-grade section, construction of a 3.681-km elevated stretch and several allied infrastructure components. Parallelly, B-RIDE has initiated major works on the 'Mallige' corridor between Baiyappanahalli and Chikkabanavara. The project includes an 8-km elevated double-decker viaduct between Benniganahalli and Shettyhalli, integrating both rail and road flyover systems.

A double-decker station is also planned at Mattikere, along with viaduct ramps, skywalks and multi-modal integration facilities at Benniganahalli, Hebbal and Shettyhalli. Additional infrastructure development has also been proposed at Yeshwanthpur station.

Meanwhile, Package-2 focuses on the Heelalige-Bellandur section, where land-levelling work for laying railway tracks is expected to begin soon. The package also includes the construction of minor bridges, Road Over Bridges (ROBs) and Road Under Bridges (RUBs) along the alignment. Since nearly 12.6 km of the corridor runs at ground level, authorities plan to build boundary walls and fencing to improve safety and prevent trespassing. Packages 3 and 4 aim to eliminate level crossings between Heelalige and Rajanukunte. Plans include constructing one Road Under Bridge and four Road Over Bridges to ensure uninterrupted movement of both trains and vehicles.

The 46.285-km Kanaka corridor will feature 19 stations, including four elevated and 15 ground-level stations. Key stations on the route include Rajanukunte, Yelahanka, Jakkur, Thanisandra, Hennur, Horamavu, Benniganahalli, Marathahalli, Bellandur Road, Carmelaram, Ambedkar Nagar and Heelalige. Future extensions to Singena Agrahara and Bommasandra are also under consideration.

— BMB

Suburban rail works resume in phases after stalled corridor construction triggered delays across crucial city connectivity routes.

DID YOU KNOW?

Scientists have traced the origins of the world's most widely used natural fibre crop — upland cotton (Gossypium hirsutum) — to Mexico's northwestern Yucatan peninsula, where it was first domesticated by Stone Age farmers between 4,000 and 7,000 years ago. The study, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, found that upland cotton now accounts for nearly 90% of global cotton production. Researchers compared the genomes of domesticated cotton with wild cotton species from the Yucatan, Florida and Caribbean islands. They discovered the domesticated variety most closely resembled wild Yucatan cotton. Scientists said ancient farmers gradually transformed wild cotton, originally woody shrubs with sparse flowers and coarse fibres, into the soft, durable textile crop used worldwide today. Experts noted that domestication reduced cotton's genetic diversity, potentially weakening resistance to pests and environmental changes. However, wild cotton species may still hold valuable traits useful for improving modern crops. Cotton later spread globally after Spanish conquests in the Americas and became one of history's most influential commercial crops, though deeply linked to slavery and colonial expansion.

— Reuters

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Trump's claims on recent revisions of global warming projections debunked

The Claim: Trump claimed the United Nations climate panel admitted its worst-case warming projection RCP8.5 was completely wrong, arguing Democrats falsely exaggerated climate change threats and promoted misleading global warming predictions for fifteen years.
Fact: Scientists clarified RCP8.5 was always an unlikely high-risk scenario, not false science. Updated studies show cleaner energy growth reduced its probability, though significant climate dangers and warming risks still remain globally.

President Donald Trump recently blasted the accuracy of global warming projections in a Truth Social post that itself painted a distorted view of the science, projections and how the international community discusses climate policy. Every several years, the United Nations releases extensive scientific reports on what is happening and what is likely to happen with human-caused global warming. Scientists periodically update some of the scenarios used to make future projections. One key factor determining the extent and impact of future climate change is carbon dioxide emissions from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas. The more carbon pollution released, the greater the warming. Scientists therefore base their projections on a range of possible future scenarios.

Those scenarios triggered the president's social media post over the weekend. Trump referred to a set of projections from 2011 prepared by scientists associated with the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The projections were updated in a study published earlier this year, which found that the old worst-case scenario, known as RCP8.5, had become implausible. The change prompted climate change sceptics and others who downplay climate science to criticise the international panel's work. At the same time, mainstream climate scientists defended the inclusion of extreme scenarios, arguing that such projections help governments assess risks and prepare for possible outcomes. They also pointed to the rapid growth of cleaner energy technologies such as solar and wind power, electric vehicles and battery storage, which have helped slow the growth of global carbon emissions.

Even when scientists introduced the scenario 15 years ago, they considered it unlikely. However, they believed it remained possible if the world continued heavily relying on fossil fuels, particularly coal. The scenario projected end-of-century warming of around 4.5 degrees Celsius compared to temperatures recorded in the mid-1800s. "It was not alarmism," said climate scientist Detlef Van Vuuren of Utrecht University, lead author of the new study, and Johan Rockström, director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany. Rockstrom warned that even the lowest projected warming levels would still create dangerous conditions through floods, heatwaves and droughts, while also increasing the risk of crossing climate tipping points such as coral reef and glacier loss.

"The risks of climate change have not disappeared. The good news is that we did not follow the most dramatic emission pathway. However, we are still heading towards a future with significant climate impacts; a future that we should avoid," Van Vuuren added. Trump also claimed that his administration "will always be based on TRUTH, SCIENCE, and FACT!" However, scientists criticised a 2025 Trump administration climate report, calling it inaccurate and misleading. **— AP**

Batting with Kohli made a big difference in my growth, says Devdutt Padikkal

The art of constructing an innings

Royal Challengers Bengaluru batter Devdutt Padikkal says opening alongside Virat Kohli in his debut IPL season helped him understand the art of constructing an innings, a lesson that continues to shape his approach in T20 cricket.

Padikkal, who burst onto the scene with Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the 2020 IPL, said watching Kohli operate from close quarters gave him invaluable insight early in his career.

"When I made my IPL debut with RCB in the 2020 season, I felt ready. I had a solid run of scores in domestic cricket behind me," Padikkal said during an interaction on JioStar.

"And batting with Virat Kohli, one of the greatest in the game, was a huge help. At that age, watching him build an innings gave me so much clarity and understanding of how to construct a knock. That made a big difference in my growth," he added.

The Karnataka batter said his subsequent stints with Rajasthan Royals and Lucknow Super Giants, where he batted in multiple positions, broadened his understanding of the game.

"Moving from being a dedicated opener to batting in different positions lower down the order was challenging, especially at a young age. But those experiences with Rajasthan Royals and Lucknow Super Giants shaped me into the player I am today," he said.

"Batting at different numbers taught me how to read situations, construct innings under pressure, and adapt my game.". Padikkal admitted the 2024 IPL season tested him mentally, but said the difficult phase eventually became a turning point in his career.

"The 2024 IPL season was a tough one. Bouncing back from a difficult season is never easy. During that season, a lot was going on in my head," he said.

"You must go through the phase, accept it, and figure out how to come out better. Once the season ended, I knew exactly what I had to work on.".

The left-hander credited RCB mentor Dinesh Karthik and head coach Andy Flower for helping him tweak both his technique and mindset after his return to RCB.

"I made several changes to my batting technique with the help of Dinesh Karthik and Andy Flower. I needed to adjust a few things to shift from red-ball to white-ball cricket," he said.

"Mentally, I had to bring more intent into my game. I needed to go out with the mindset of looking to score off every ball. Once I did that, the results started showing.".

Padikkal said RCB's batting depth has allowed top-order players to attack more freely in an evolving T20 landscape.

"Having a powerful and deep batting lineup at RCB is a luxury. When you know the batting order is strong all the way down, it gives you extra confidence to play freely at the top," he said. "You have to be ready to sacrifice your wicket if it helps the team score an extra 20 or 30 runs quickly.".

Padikkal also hailed teenage batter Vaibhav Sooryavanshi for his extraordinary ball-striking ability.

"What Vaibhav Sooryavanshi does is truly unique. At his age, to have that kind of power and explosiveness in his batting is special," he said.

"He is a rare talent, and what he does is incredible." —PTI

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Hyderabad rake up runs on batting featherbed

Sunrisers Hyderabad's Ishan Kishan and Heinrich Klaasen celebrate their partnership

Abhishek Sharma's batswing, Ishan Kishan's daredevilry and Heinrich Klaasen's brute muscularity allowed Sunrisers Hyderabad to maintain their home batting template of attack at all costs and post a mammoth 255 for 4 against Royal Challengers Bengaluru in an IPL match here on Friday.

While Abhishek (56 off 22 balls) scored another 20-ball half-century and nullified Bhuvneshwar Kumar in his first spell, vice-captain Kishan found the gaps while displaying both precision and cheekiness to pummel his way to 79 off just 44 balls.

Klaasen (51 off 24 balls), probably the most consistent batter across teams below No. 3, literally toyed with a world class operator like Josh Hazlewood, taking as many as 27 runs off his third over and the team's 13th, as the Orange Army ensured that they would cross the 250-run mark on a batting featherbed.

The mayhem was started by Abhishek when he elegantly lofted a Bhuvneshwar delivery over wide of long-off to get his first six. Bhuvneshwar, who found a second wind in this IPL, wasn't allowed to settle down as he flicked him twice -- once over square-leg and then over deep mid-wicket off back-to-back deliveries.

Romario Shepherd's friendly, occasional medium pace wasn't supposed to trouble the world's No. 1 ranked T20 batter, and it didn't. He was lofted for a couple of straight sixes while Suyash Sharma's delivery was also sent soaring into the orbit with minimal footwork.

While Kishan dropped anchor at one end and is showing consistency that one expects from a talent like him, no words of praise would be enough for Klaasen, who doesn't play international cricket anymore and is the most sought after gun-for-hire in the franchise universe.

In case of Kishan, RCB bowlers were guilty of bowling into his pads, allowing him to chance his arms freely while Klaasen was neither disturbed by straight lines nor perturbed by the wide lines bowled at him.

The manner in which he hammered Hazlewood was good enough to dismantle the strategy of Rajat Patidar while Nitish Reddy provided a final flourish with a 12-ball 29 not out. In all, SRH batters hit 20 boundaries and 16 sixes. —PTI

Chinnaswamy redevelopment underway after IPL final shift: Venkatesh Prasad

Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) President Venkatesh Prasad on Friday said the redevelopment of the iconic M. Chinnaswamy Stadium is already underway, even as he acknowledged that the venue's limited capacity could have been one of the reasons behind the relocation of the IPL 2026 final to Ahmedabad.

Speaking at an event in Bengaluru, Prasad said the process of redesigning and redeveloping the stadium had begun well before the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) shifted the IPL final out of Bengaluru.

"One of the reasons that the finals was moved out from this venue probably is the capacity of the stadium. Obviously this process had started before that," Prasad said.

The IPL had initially allotted the May 31 final to Bengaluru, but the BCCI later reassigned the title clash to the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

Prasad revealed that the KSCA had received an overwhelming response to its global expression of interest for the stadium's redevelopment project.

According to him, around 28 internationally experienced architects had shown interest in redesigning the venue, with the list now narrowed down to eight firms. KSCA is in the process of shortlisting three or four architects who will submit conceptual designs for the project.

Prasad also highlighted several initiatives undertaken by the current KSCA administration during IPL 2026, including improved crowd management measures, dedicated holding areas, streamlined ingress and egress systems, and enhanced security arrangements for fans.

He added that KSCA had also integrated public transport with match ticketing during the IPL season, a model he said could be replicated in other cities across India.

The former India pacer further announced a landmark lighting project involving the installation of sports LED floodlights at the Chinnaswamy Stadium, the SDNRW Stadium and the Rajnagar Stadium. Prasad said the upgraded lighting infrastructure would significantly improve fan experience and playing ambience across Karnataka's cricket venues. —ANI

In some cases, it is a story of neglect for elderly

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

She said during evenings, grandparents sit around in groups, busy in conversations about household activities, while also keeping a close eye on the grandchildren at the playgrounds or parks.

Bhavana, a 37-year-old software consultant in a multinational company, explains how she keeps in touch with her family. "We are from Bihar. We visit our parents during holidays as we live in Bengaluru, but bringing them to stay in this urban mayhem is not a good idea," she says. She insists that this does not mean they do not want parental guidance or their presence in their homes, but due to the need of the hour and pressures at the workplace, this seems to be the best arrangement for the mental peace of both sides. In modern nuclear setups, what is generally termed as youngster's independence is actually a win-win situation where boundaries are not crossed and households appear better managed.

Dr Naval Kishore is 93 and lives in a plush home for elders. "Being supportive to our children, who are facing the daily rut of this fast paced workplace and homefront, it was my personal decision to enter into a living space where my physical, medical, food and timetable would be followed," he said. He said he wanted to prevent any difficulties that could have cropped up had he expected his son and family to constantly look after him, as at this age he requires personal attention regularly. Though his son is also in the city, he said he does not hold any grudge if his son misses a Sunday visit and that a telephone call or video conferencing suffices as his daughter is also in the United States of America. "Our dignity is intact and every conversation with both my son and daughter's families is a pleasure," he added.

Abandoned feeling

Not all situations are hunky dory as neglected elders and abandoned parents continue to face daily needs and routine with great difficulty. Sister Philomina, who assists a 120-bedded old age home in the city, talks about some of her experiences. "Some elders who are picked up and brought into our centre are in deep pain, both physical and mental, highly undernourished and medically unattended by their children and family members." She said some are mentally unstable and are brought to the centre where they are tended to with professional care in terms of medication, diet, physical exercise and occasional entertainment programs, making it better for them to stay there where their age related needs can be taken care of.

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personal

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I Asif S/o Dasthagir R/o #511, 3rd Cross, Begur Main Road Virat Nagar Bommanahalli B'lore-560068 have changed my name to Mohammed Asif.

I, Amit Omprakash Kolariya S/O Omprakash Kolariya, R/O 303,36th A Cross, 11th Main, Jayanagar 4th T block, Bangalore, have changed my name to Amit Kolariya vide affidavit dated 11/05/2026.

I Ramamani Tharikeri Satyanarayana R/o No 2032/81 SMV Lyt 5th Block Ullalu Main Road Blore-56 Have Changed My Name To Ramamani Markandeya.

I, Mohamed Huseni Nabi Rasul Dakhani S/O Nabi Rasul Khan Mohamed Dakhani R/o Ft 407 Favourite Elegance Apt Shampur Main Rd Kavalbyrasndra Bangalore-32 have changed my name to Mohamed Hussain N Dakhani .

I, Manjunath Rao Nagesh R/o 19/64, 8th Main, 4th Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010 have changed my minor daughter's name from Neeharika Pawar to Sohni Pawar for all purposes

I, Ragalela Padmanabham R/o 6/2/266-20 2nd Floor behind Sai Baba temple Kovvuru Nagar Anantapur-515001 have changed my name to Ragalela Padmanaba.

I, Pandia Raj Ramakrishna, R/at No. 95, J Street, Keshava Nagar, K P Agrahara, Magadi road, Bengaluru - 580023, have changed my name to Pandiya Raj Ramakrishna, vide affidavit dt: 19/05/2026 Notary V Anjanappa, B.lore.

I am Leelavati Ashok Kannappalavar W/o Ashok B K, r/o Haveri, I have changed my name from Leelavati Kannappalavar to Leelavati Ashok Kannappalavar

I, Nishu G w/o Gagan R, R/o No-151, 5th Cross,, K V Layout, Near Sai Baba Temple, K R Puram, Bengaluru-560036 have changed my name to Nishchala Girish for all Purposes.

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I, RASHEED KHAN BABU residing at No. 1450, Qumar Nagar, Chandra Layout, Bangalore – 560072 have changed my name to BABU KHAN vide affidavit dated 05/05/2026 sworn before notary Leela Bangalore

I, Lokesha Kammasandra Venkataramaiah, R/at No. 17/A, B H road, Someshwara Extension, Magadi Town, Ramanagar-562120, have changed my name to Lokesh Kammasandra Venkataramaiah, vide affidavit dt: 12/05/2026 Notary V Anjanappa, B.lore.

I, Qamarunissa Amanulla Baiganpalli W/O Amanulla Hashamali Baiganpalli 207 Ground floor 5th cross S.K.Garden Billawardhalli Bannerghatta post 560083 i have changed my name from Qamarunnisa sindgi to Qamarunissa Amanulla Baiganpalli vide sworn before notary Mohammed Hussain K dt 12.05.2026

LOST & FOUND

I, ALLWIN residing at No. 0571, Joga street, Near Nageshwara Temple, Begur, Bangalore – 560068 have lost my RTC documents (Sale deed No. 28203) in Begur on 17/05/2026. If anybody find please handover to the nearest Police Station or above mentioned address.

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HEALTH TIP: Chamomile tea is a herbal tea that has medicinal value; it can soothe and act as a muscle relaxant

If you are exercising early morning, your best bet is a banana or any whole fruit with wholewheat toast

CARBON COUNT

Decarbonising everything is impossible - here's why

Walk into any supermarket and you are surrounded by carbon. Not the kind measured in parts per million in climate reports, but carbon in its most tangible form: the polymer shell of a shampoo bottle, the insulation behind the ceiling tiles, the synthetic fibres in the bag hanging from your wrist.

These are not accidental byproducts of the fossil fuel era. They are its second act, less visible than combustion but no less consequential.

The global conversation about net zero has been almost entirely about energy. This framing is essential, but it rests on an assumption so embedded it rarely gets examined: that the only thing fossil fuels give us worth worrying about is the energy released when we burn them.

Roughly 15-20% of all fossil fuel consumption is never burned at all. It is transformed into the physical fabric of modern life: plastics, polymers, fertilisers, adhesives, solvents and synthetic textiles.

When these products are eventually incinerated, degraded or discarded, their carbon returns to the atmosphere, a contribution to global warming that is real, growing and almost entirely absent from mainstream net zero accounting.

As well as a green energy transition, the material transition needs to be sustainable. But three industries at the heart of this problem are often overlooked: chemical manufacturing, plastic polymers and construction.

The chemical industry is the upstream engine of many modern materials, using about 14% of global oil demand and 8% of global gas demand. Much of that is used as a raw material rather than fuel.

Ammonia, made from natural gas via a century-old process known as Haber-Bosch, underpins the fertilisers that feed roughly half the world's population. Ethylene, derived from crude oil, is the starting point for an enormous range of plastics, solvents and coatings. Processing carbon is a fundamental part of this industry.

The world produces approximately 400 million tonnes of plastic every year, almost all from fossil feedstocks. Only around 9% is ever recycled. The rest is incinerated, landfilled or lost to the environment. Each pathway returns fossil carbon to the atmosphere at varying speeds.

Construction offers more promise. Buildings can stand for 50 to 100 years, so the carbon contained in their materials can remain locked away for decades.

Take timber: trees absorb carbon dioxide as they grow and store that carbon in wood. But the same idea can be extended to engineered materials.

Agricultural and forestry residues (such as crop cuttings, twigs and leaves) can be turned into biochar, a stable charcoal-like form of carbon, and used to make aggregates or concrete.

Carbon dioxide can be captured using technologies and then converted into construction products, including insulation materials. In each case, carbon is not simply treated as waste; it becomes part of long-lived buildings and infrastructure.

The solution is not to eliminate carbon from industry altogether, but to stop treating fossil carbon as the default raw material.

Chemicals, plastics and construction products will still need carbon, but that carbon does not always have to come from oil, gas or coal. It can come from plant-based sources or waste products from farming or forestry plus other forms of sustainably sourced plant material.

It can also come from carbon dioxide captured from industrial processes before it escapes into the atmosphere.

Used carefully, these carbon sources can help replace fossil fuel-based carbon in polymers, construction products, insulation materials and chemicals.

Careful assessment of these alternatives will ensure they genuinely reduce emissions across a product's full life cycle. That includes where the carbon came from, how much energy was used to extract it, whether environmental damage to land was avoided, how long the carbon remains in the product, and what happens when the product reaches the end of its life.

A related question is how captured carbon should be managed. Permanently burying captured carbon in underground rocks or the deep ocean removes those atoms from the accessible cycle for millennia, progressively depleting the surface carbon pool on which agriculture and industry both depend.

To reach a more circular, less wasteful system, carbon should be kept in circulation and recovered at end of life. Burial should be a last resort.

Moving together

Making this transition work requires six things to move together. New materials must genuinely perform as well as the fossil ones they replace. Sustainable carbon supplies must be mapped honestly, because biogenic carbon (carbon derived from recently living organisms such as plants or algae) is limited so choices about allocation will have to be made.

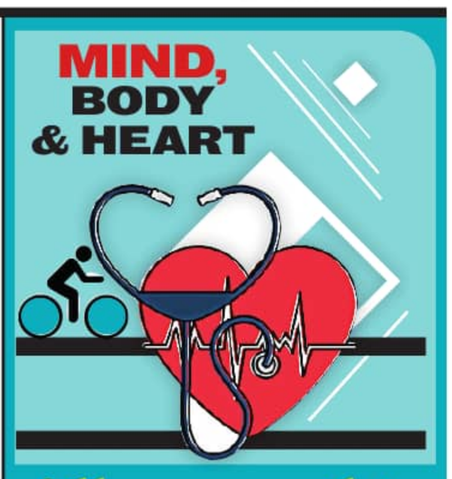
Policy must reward circular carbon through procurement rules, carbon pricing and regulation. Rigorous life-cycle assessments can verify that new materials are genuinely better, not merely different.

End-of-life infrastructure (such as sorting, collection, repair, recycling and safe disposal systems) must be built before production scales up to ensure it's not an afterthought.

Trust from consumers, retailers and manufacturers will depend on proving where the carbon in a product came from, how it was processed and what happens to it at the end of its life.

The origin of any carbon is invisible. So for the market for circular carbon materials to function transparently, reliable labelling, certification and digital product passports (digital records that highlight a product's origin, supply chain and environmental impact) are vital.

(By Muhammad Imran, Aston University, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Mental health

Leading cause of disability
The world's burden of mental disorders have more than doubled since 1990, and they are now the leading cause of disability globally, overtaking cardiovascular disease, cancer and musculoskeletal conditions, according to a new study published in The Lancet journal.

Rising numbers
Researchers from The University of Queensland and Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research (QCMHR) in Australia and the US' University of Washington found that nearly 1.2 billion people worldwide were living with a mental disorder in 2023, nearly double the number in 1990.
The increase was largely driven by rising numbers of anxiety and depression, they said.
In 2023, 620 million women of all ages were living with a mental disorder compared to 552 million men of all ages globally. Mental disorders also accounted for more than 17% of all years lived with disability worldwide.

In India
In India, age-standardised prevalence of anxiety disorders across both sexes was almost 2,592 per one lakh population in 1990, which rose by 123.5% to 5,793 per one lakh population in 2023. Prevalence of the disorders increased among women by 136.7% during 1990-2023, compared to 102% among men.
"These rising trends may reflect both the lingering effects of pandemic-related stress and longer-term structural drivers such as poverty, insecurity, abuse, violence, and declining social connectedness," said first author Damian Santomauro.

Gender lens
Women experienced higher rates of anxiety and depression in 2023, while neurodevelopmental and behavioural disorders such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), conduct disorder, and autism are more common in males and tend to peak in adolescence. —PTI

MIRRORLIGHTS

Demand for surgeries grows with rise in ventral hernia among working-age adults

A new multi-centre Indian study titled "Pain and quality of life outcomes following robotic and laparoscopic repair of small-mid sized ventral hernias: insights from the ASPIRE India Study" has highlighted the growing burden of ventral hernias among working-age adults and the increasing demand for surgeries that allow faster recovery and quicker return to work.

Doctors say ventral hernias, where tissue or part of the intestine protrudes through a weak area in the abdominal wall muscles, are increasingly being seen in urban populations due to sedentary lifestyles, obesity, prior abdominal surgeries and delayed treatment. Many patients tend to ignore smaller hernias until pain, discomfort or mobility issues begin affecting daily routines and professional life.

Dr. Sreedhara V. Setty, author of the study and Senior Consultant at Apollo Hospital said that younger adults are now undergoing regular health and pre-employment check-ups, leading to more hernias being detected through ultrasounds. He added that many younger adults involved in gym workouts, cardio exercises and swimming often notice swelling or pain during physical activity, prompting them to seek medical attention.

The concern among urban patients today, doctors say, is not just treatment, but how quickly they can recover and resume normal activities after surgery.

Dr. Ashwinikumar Kudari, one of the researchers of the study and senior consultant at Narayana Health - Mazumdar Shaw Medical Center, pointed out that delaying treatment can significantly worsen the condition. "Patients may eventually develop chronic pain, difficulty with physical activity, bowel obstruction, incarceration, or strangulation of the intestine, which can become surgical emergencies," he said. —BMB

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

[(3/2)^ – 2 * (2/3)^2 * (4/9)^ – 1] / [(8/27) * (81/16) ^ – 1] = ?

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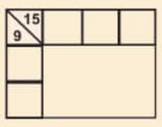
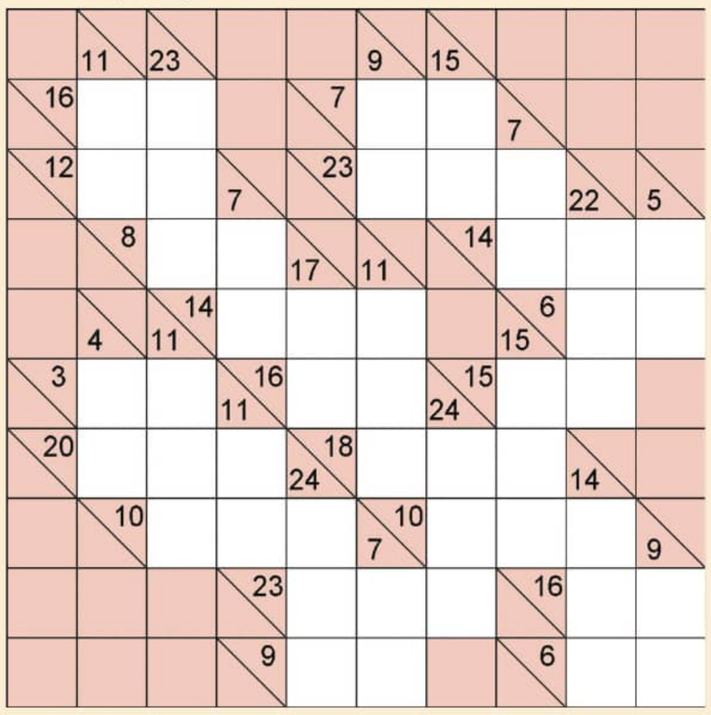
Kakuro

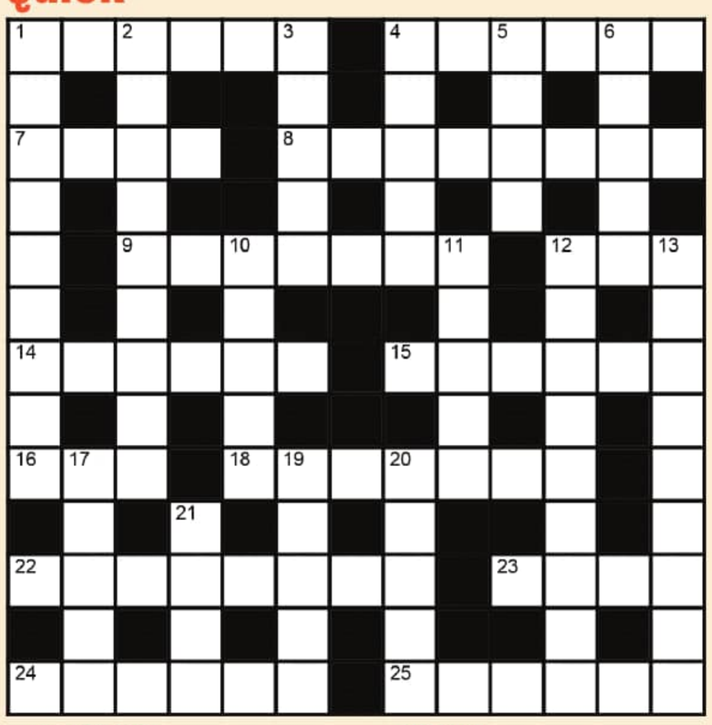
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Agreement (6)
4 Danger, threat (6)
7 Outer garment (4)
8 Changing the title (8)
9 Park in Bangalore's Central Business District (7)
12 Cut down grass (3)
14 Looked lasciviously at (6)
15 Military command (2,4)
16 Mongrel (3)
18 Garden frame (7)
22 Irritating and persistent (8)
23 Short note (4)
24 Not famous or acclaimed (6)
25 Abhor (6)

DOWN

1 Dipsomaniac (9)
2 Driver (9)
3 Funereal chant (5)
4 Tropical fruit (5)
5 Insensate (4)
6 Division of poem (5)
10 Upright (5)
11 Dense element? (5)
12 Assessment of personal assets (5,4)
13 Sharpening device (9)
17 Joining together (5)
19 Regretting (5)
20 Lawful (5)
21 Russian secret police of the Communist era (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: M EQUALS I

IPR ODE IPNI MYC'I YPNQRK KMRY EDWCF.

Line maro

When I looked into your eyes, I saw my life had a purpose

Mindchow

The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable man persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man

Joke of the day

I lived in a house that ran on static electricity... if you wanted to run the blender, you had to rub balloons on your head; if you wanted to cook, you had to pull off a sweater real quick

Loop

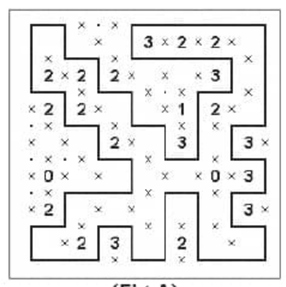
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

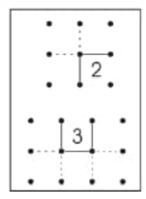
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

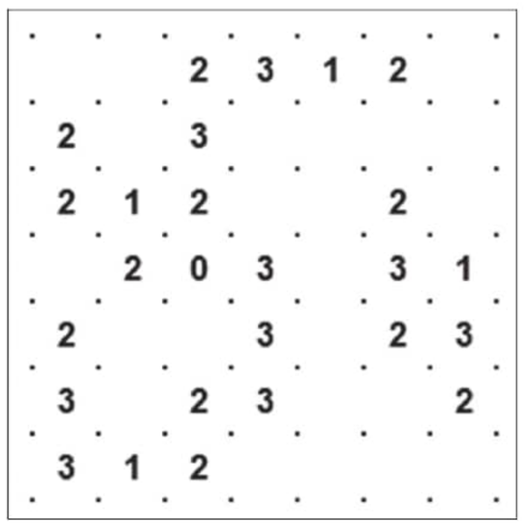
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



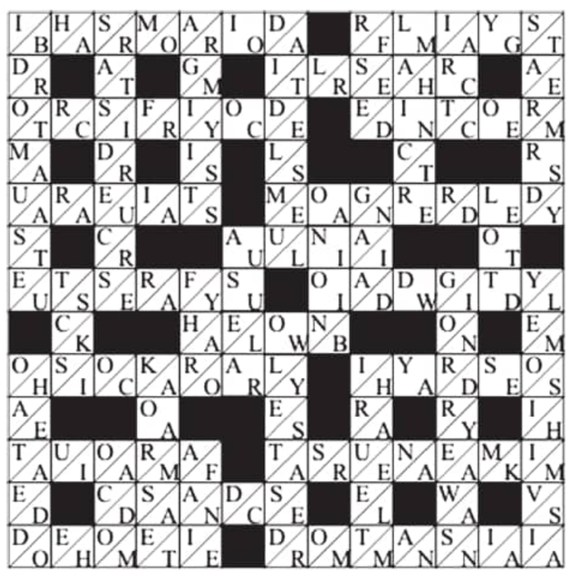
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



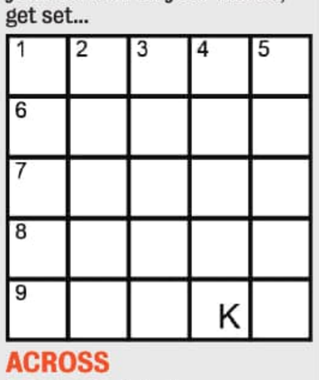
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

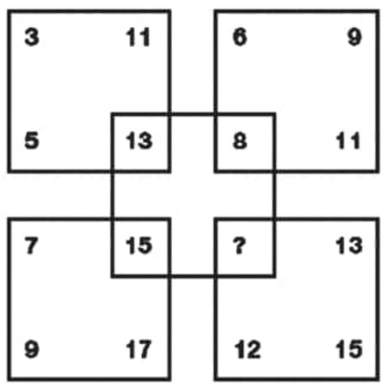
1 Felts; 6 A halo;
7 Laver; 8 CIG an;
9 Teaks

DOWN

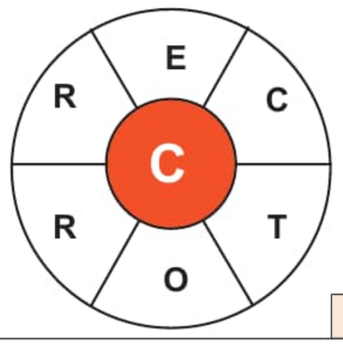
1 A Slav; 2 Lee CT;
3 Foal I; 4 H Tank;
5 Gears

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; **03** Good; **04** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	9		2		1		5	
3				4				6
		5	3		6	7		
5	8						1	2
			9		8			
4	1						9	7
		4	6		9	2		
2				7				9
	5		8		3		6	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 6

2 8 8 9

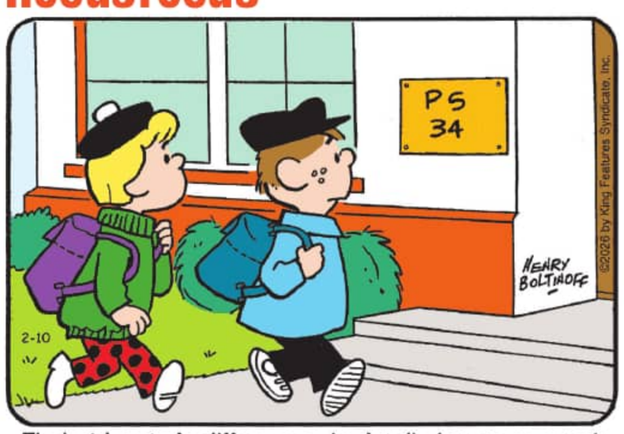
Medium = 6

4 4 4 9

Hard = 21

2 5 6 7

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

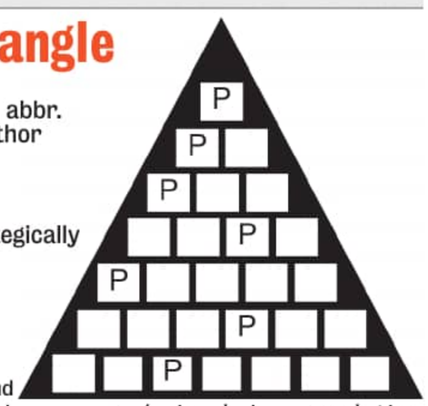
Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Shoe is different. 3. Backpack strap is missing. 4. Window is different. 5. Bush is missing. 6. Cap is larger.

Riddler

A spoonerism is a pair of words that can have their initial sounds switched to form new words. The pairs need only sound the same, not necessarily be spelled the same (power saw & sour paw, horse cart & coarse heart). There may sometimes be one or two connecting words (kick the stone & stick the cone, king of the rats & ring of the cats). Given the following definitions, what are the spoonerisms?

Alpha triangle

1 Parking sign
2 Potential energy, abbr.
3 The Gold Bug, author
4 Easy gait
5 Warsaw natives
6 Inclined
7 Distributes strategically

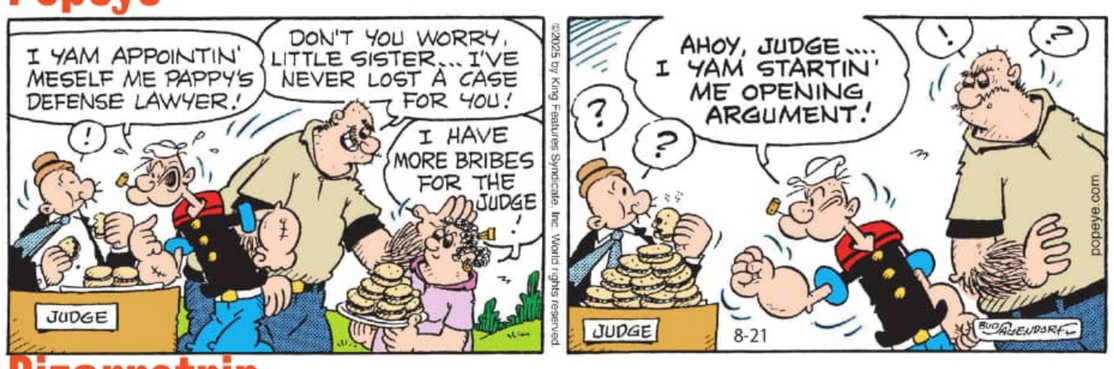


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


I YAM APPOINTIN' MESELF ME PAPPY'S DEFENSE LAWYER!
DON'T YOU WORRY, LITTLE SISTER... I'VE NEVER LOST A CASE FOR YOU!
I HAVE MORE BRIBES FOR THE JUDGE!
JUDGE
AHOY, JUDGE.... I YAM STARTIN' ME OPENING ARGUMENT!
JUDGE
8-21
popeye.com
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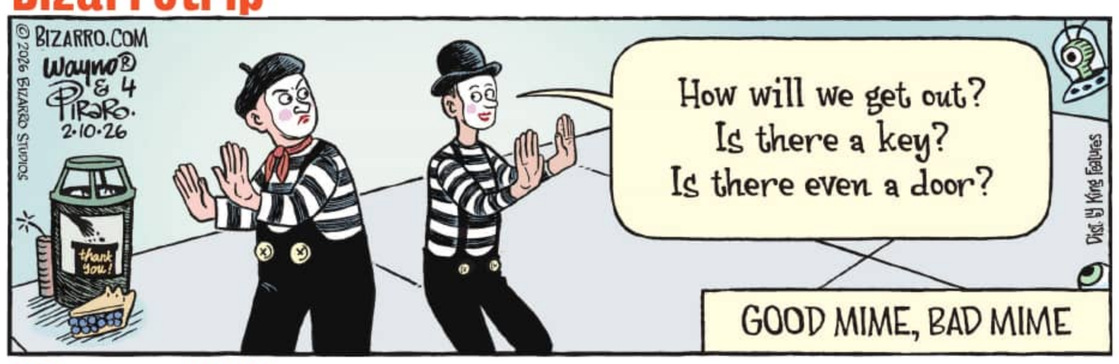
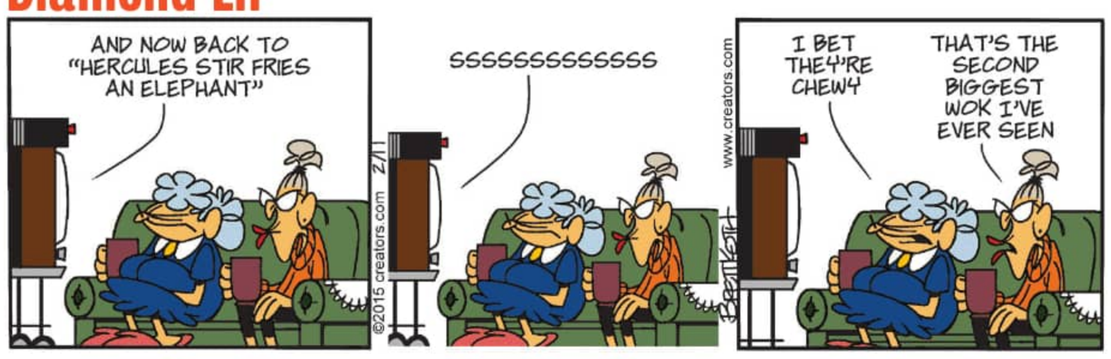
Bizarrotrip


BIZARRO.COM
©2026 BIZARRO STUDIOS
Wayno & Piraro 2-10-26
How will we get out? Is there a key? Is there even a door?
GOOD MIME, BAD MIME
Dist. by King Features

Diamond Lil


AND NOW BACK TO "HERCULES STIR FRIES AN ELEPHANT"
SSSSSSSSSSSS
I BET THEY'RE CHEW4
THAT'S THE SECOND BIGGEST WOK I'VE EVER SEEN
©2015 creators.com
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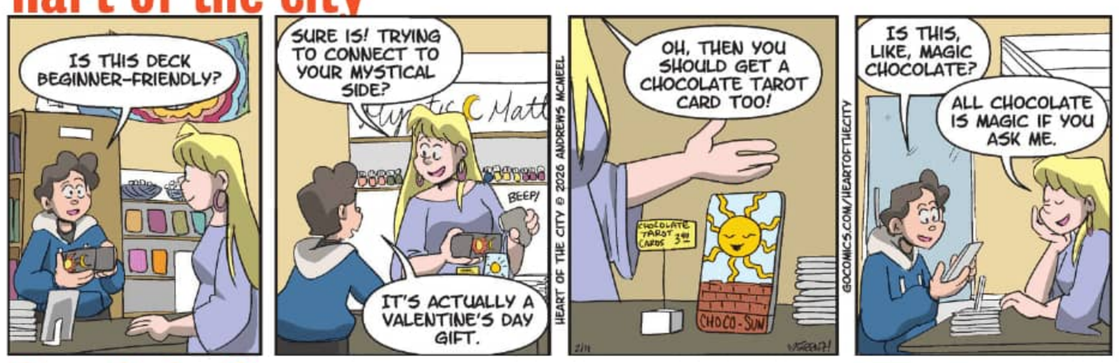
Hart of the city


IS THIS DECK BEGINNER-FRIENDLY?
SURE IS! TRYING TO CONNECT TO YOUR MYSTICAL SIDE?
BEEP!
IT'S ACTUALLY A VALENTINE'S DAY GIFT.
OH, THEN YOU SHOULD GET A CHOCOLATE TAROT CARD TOO!
CHOCOLATE TAROT CARDS
CHOCO-SUN
IS THIS, LIKE, MAGIC CHOCOLATE?
ALL CHOCOLATE IS MAGIC IF YOU ASK ME.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2026 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

DO YOU HAVE ANY KIDS ON YOUR BUS WHO ARE TRYING TO GET AWAY WITH NOT PUTTING THEIR PHONES IN THE YONDR POUCHES?
THERE ARE, BUT WE HAVE OUR WAYS OF FINDING OUT...
MY BROTHER PUT A BURNER PHONE IN HIS YONDR POUCH!
© 2025 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
BATIUK & DAVIS
tombatiuk.com/books
2-10

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Adventure and risk-taking are highlighted. You may feel more daring than usual, prompting you to try activities you previously feared. This boldness pays off in your personal life, leading to an exciting new romance or a deep friendship. Stay active and keep your energy moving. Your enthusiasm is your most attractive quality; let it shine through every day.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Romance takes centre stage as the stars align for a heartfelt connection. Whether single or partnered, express your deepest desires openly. Vulnerability acts as a bridge to a stronger, lasting bond.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Financial intuition is sharp. You might spot a lucrative opportunity others have overlooked. Do your research before committing, but trust that your practical nature will guide you toward true prosperity.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Your social calendar fills up quickly today. Choose your engagements wisely to avoid burnout. A conversation with an old acquaintance sparks a nostalgic feeling that warms your entire restless heart.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Privacy is your priority. Retreat to your favourite quiet spot to process recent events. You find strength in solitude, allowing you to return to the world feeling refreshed and centred.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Networking leads to a breakthrough in a creative project. Don't be afraid to ask for feedback from those you trust. Collaboration turns a good idea into something truly spectacular today.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Professional responsibilities increase, but you are more than capable of handling the load. Organize your schedule meticulously. Your efficiency impresses a supervisor, opening doors for future promotion and career growth.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Seek out intellectual stimulation through a documentary or a challenging lecture. Expanding your mind brings a sense of fulfilment. Share your new knowledge with a friend to deepen your connection.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Focus on deep healing today. Let go of a resentment that has been weighing you down. Lightening your emotional load allows you to move forward with a much brighter spirit.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Partnership dynamics require a gentle touch. Listen more than you speak to understand a loved one's perspective. Harmony is restored when you prioritise empathy over being right in an argument.

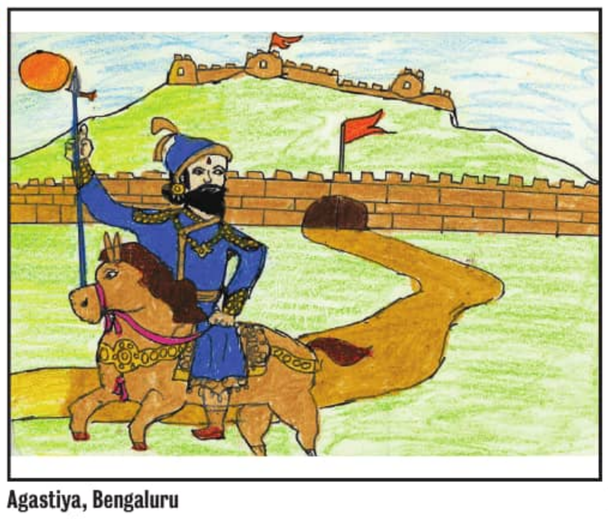
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Efficiency is your middle name today. You tackle your to-do list with impressive speed and accuracy. Use your extra time to relax and enjoy a hobby you usually neglect often.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Creative inspiration strikes while you are performing a mundane task. Keep a notebook handy to capture these fleeting ideas. Your originality is a gift that keeps giving to the world.

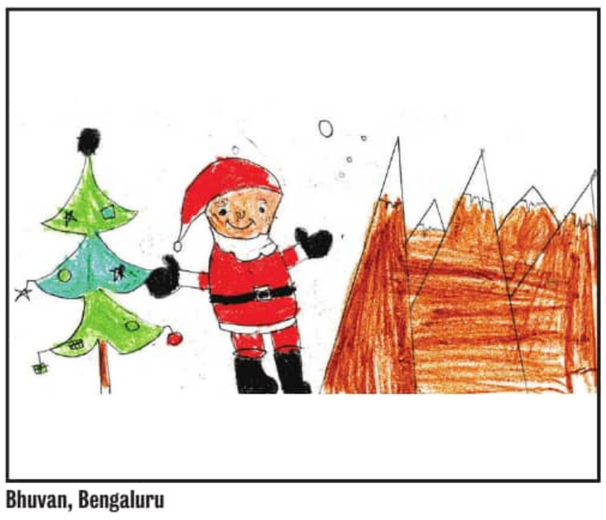
Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Focus on your roots and family history. A conversation with an elder reveals a fascinating story about your ancestors. Understanding your past helps you navigate your future with more confidence.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Agastiya, Bengaluru



Bhuvan, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
[(2/3)^2 * (2/3)^2 * (4/9)^ - 1] / (4/9) / (128 / 2187) =
243 / 32 = (3/2)^5

RIDDLER
1) key and parrot & pea and carrot,
2) cold book & bold cook

QUOTE UNCODE
The joy that isn't shared dies young.

FAST FIVE

L	E	F	T	S
A	L	O	H	A
V	E	L	A	R
A	C	I	N	G
S	T	A	K	E

STRIKE OUT

B	A	R	M	A	I	D		F	L	A	G	S		
R	A	M		I	L	E	A	C		E				
O	R	I	F	I	C	E		E	N	T	E	R		
M		D		S		S		C				R		
A	R	E	A	S		E	A	G	E	R	L	Y		
T		R		U	L	N	A			O				
E	S	S	A	Y	S		O	D	D	I	T	Y		
K			A	E	O	N		N		E				
H	I	C	K	O	R	Y	H	A	D	E	S			
A			O		S		A		R		H			
T	I	A	R	A		T	S	U	N	A	M	I		
E		D	A	N	C	E		L		W		V		
R	O	M	A	N	I	A								

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
10. Numbers are arranged in columns of 4, with each one increasing down-wards in steps of 2.

BULL'S EYE
core, corer, CORRECT, rector

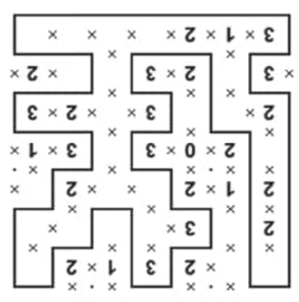
SUDOKU

7	9	6	2	8	1	4	5	3
3	2	1	7	4	5	9	8	6
8	4	5	3	9	6	7	2	1
6	7	2	9	1	8	3	4	5
5	8	9	4	3	7	6	1	2
4	1	3	5	6	2	8	9	7
1	3	4	6	5	9	2	7	8
2	6	8	1	7	4	5	3	9
9	5	7	8	2	3	1	6	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE
P, PE, Poe, Lope, Poles, Sloped, Deploys.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 - 2 + 8 - 9 = 6
Medium
4 / 4 - 4 + 9 = 6
Hard
5 x 6 - 7 - 2 = 21

LOOP



KAKURO

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